REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Deposition of Claims

Claims 1-28 remain pending. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are independent claims. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 14 or 27. Applicant has canceled claim 28. Applicant has amended claims 1 – 4, 6, 7, 14-18, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 27.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Examiner rejects claim 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thuraisngham et al. (US patent no. 5,355,474). Examiner states that Thuraisngham teaches a method for constructing and caching a chain of file identifiers that represent a full path to a file system resource comprising the steps of:

Retrieving a file identifier corresponding to the file system resource which is the target of the access attempt and a file identifier chain for the directory of the target resource;

Searching for the effective security classification category and defined named for the target resource file identifier;

Updating the security classification system, when said search finds a security classification category for the target resource file identifier; and

Determining whether operations for the target file system resource could affect the file system name space.

The Examiner states that Thuraisngham does not explicitly teach terminating said method when operation does not affect the file system name space. Howver, Thuraingham teaches, "once a response is received from P2, P1 will display the response to the user and P1 will again prompt the user for another request.

Applicant has amended the claims 1, 14 and 27 to include steps to created file identifier chain in accordance with the present invention.
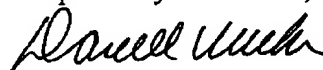
Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion that Thuraisngham teaches the above-described steps. The locations in Thuraisngham cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest creating a file identifier chain or retrieving a file identifier chain.

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Thuraisngham does discuss multi-level database security management, however, this reference does not discuss the security techniques described in Applicant's invention.

It seems, the examiner has misinterpreted the application as one claiming the invention of a security classification system (SCS). This is not the case as a SCS is presented as an application of the present. To address this possible confusion, Applicant has amended the claims. The claimed invention is the utilization of file identifiers in chains (lists) as a representation for a path name to a file system object. Further, the use of file identifiers and chains as a method of locating external attributes on a file object or attributes associated with one of the parent components of the path name to the object (in other words, as a mechanism for inheritance). In the examiner's reference to patent 5,355,474, as previously states, there is no discussion of file identifiers, chains of identifiers, inheritance of properties based on file identifier chains, or really even that much discussion of file systems, directory paths, or directory path relationships to file system resources.

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number. Applicants' original application contained 28 claims (3 independent claims and 25 dependent claims). Applicant has canceled one dependent claim. The application after the cancellation of 28 now contains 27 claims (3 independent claims and 24 dependent claims). No new fees are believed to be due. However, it any such fees are due, please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 19-04447 (Reference Number AUS920010160US1).

Respectfully Submitted,

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